

Message Text

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42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 054671

R 201624Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5800
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 00991

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GW, PL
SUBJECT: SAARLAND AND THE POLISH AGREEMENTS

REF: BONN 858

SUMMARY: A MEMBER OF THE SAARLAND GOVERNMENT WHO IS
WORKING ON THE QUESTION OF HOW THE SAARLAND SHOULD VOTE
ON THE POLISH AGREEMENT IN THE BUNDESRAT TOLD THE
EMBASSY THAT THE DECISION IS STILL OPEN. THE FINAL
DECISION WILL REST WITH MINISTER-PRESIDENT ROEDER. OUR
SOURCE, WHO PERSONALLY SUPPORTS THE AGREEMENTS, FEELS
THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS DONE VERY LITTLE TO MAKE
IT EASIER FOR THE SAARLAND TO VOTE FOR THE AGREEMENTS IN
THE BUNDESRAT. THIS SQUARES WITH A COMMENT MADE TO US
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BY ANOTHER PROMINENT CDU POLITICIAN WHO IS ALSO A

SUPPORTER OF THE AGREEMENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE QUESTION OF HOW THE SAARLAND VOTES ON THE POLISH AGREEMENT IN THE BUNDESRAT MAY HAVE BEEN OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS IN HANNOVER. HOWEVER, IT IS NOT CLEAR YET WHETHER CDU MINISTER-PRESIDENT-ELECT ALBRECHT'S EFFORTS TO FORM A GOVERNMENT WILL BE SUCCESSFUL. IN ANY EVENT, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR THE SAARLAND AND LOWER SAXONY TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE AGREEMENT IF IT WERE TO PASS THE BUNDESRAT.

2. A MEMBER OF THE SAARLAND GOVERNMENT WHO IS WORKING ON THE PROBLEM TOLD AN EMBOFF JANUARY 19 THAT AS FAR AS HE WAS AWARE THE DECISION ON HOW THE SAARLAND VOTES IN THE BUNDESRAT HAS NOT BEEN MADE. IT WOULD BE MINISTER-

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----- 054749

R 201624Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5801
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 00991

EXDIS

PRESIDENT ROEDER'S PERSONAL DECISION TO MAKE.

3. IT WAS OUR SOURCE'S IMPRESSION THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD PREFER TO SEE THE SAARLAND GOVERNMENT VOTE AGAINST THE AGREEMENTS SO THAT THE BLAME WOULD FALL ON THE CDU/CSU. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, THERE WOULD BE TWO ADVANTAGES FOR THE SPD IF THE CDU/CSU STYMIED THE AGREEMENT IN THE BUNDESRAT. SUCH AN ACTION WOULD PROVIDE THE GOVERNMENT AN ELECTION ISSUE TO USE AGAINST THE CDU/CSU AND IT WOULD AT THE SAME TIME BE A PERSONAL SET BACK FOR FDP FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER. HE AGREED THAT IT WAS NOT CERTAIN THAT A BUNDESRAT VETO OF THE POLISH WOULD HELP THE SPD/FDP COALITION IN THE BUNDESTAG ELECTIONS. HOWEVER HE FELT THAT THE BUNDESTAG ELECTIONS WILL BE DECIDED BY THE 12-15 PERCENT "SWING VOTE." THIS GROUP WAS BETTER EDUCATED, MORE CONFIDENTIAL

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INDEPENDENT AND LIKELY TO CONTAIN MORE SUPPORTERS OF THE AGREEMENTS THAN REPRESENTED IN THE PUBLIC AT LARGE.

4. AS FAR AS OUR SOURCE KNEW THERE HAD NOT BEEN ANY DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT LEADERS AND ROEDER URGING THE SAARLAND MINISTER-PRESIDENT TO VOTE FOR THE AGREEMENT IN THE BUNDESRAT. HE HAD ASKED ROEDER IF CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH HIM ABOUT THE ISSUE AND ROEDER SAID HE HAD NOT.

5. IN ADDITION, THE GOVERNMENT, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, HAS NOT IN ANY WAY BEEN FORTHCOMING IN REPLYING TO THE QUESTIONS PUT FORTH BY THE CDU "LAENDER", INCLUDING THE SAARLAND, IN THE BUNDESRAT ON NOV. 7. IF THE GOVERNMENT WERE REALLY INTERESTED IN OBTAINING THE SAARLAND'S SUPPORT, IT WOULD AT LEAST GO THROUGH THE MOTIONS OF REPLYING TO THE QUESTIONS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE ROEDER WITH JUSTIFICATION FOR VOTING FOR THE AGREEMENT. AT THE VERY LEAST, HE SAID, IT ALL ADDED UP TO A LACK OF INTEREST ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT IN SEEING THAT THE POLISH AGREEMENT PASS THROUGH THE BUNDESRAT (I.E., THAT THE SAARLAND VOTE FOR THE AGREEMENT)..

6. OUR SOURCE, HIMSELF, SUPPORTS THE AGREEMENTS BOTH ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS AND IN THE BELIEF THAT THROUGH SUCH EFFORTS IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO LOOSEN SOVIET CONTROL OVER EASTERN EUROPE. HE ALSO BELIEVES THAT THE CDU/CSU SHOULD NOT PERMIT ITSELF TO BE TRAPPED INTO OPPOSING THE AGREEMENT IN THE BUNDESRAT, AND THUS PROVIDE THE COALITION WITH AN ELECTION ISSUE WHICH IS POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS FOR THE CDU/CSU.

7. WE HAVE NO CLEAR EVIDENCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WANTS
THE AGREEMENTS TO FAIL SO THAT IT CAN USE THE
ISSUE AGAINST THE CDU/CSU IN THE BUNDESTAG ELECTION
CAMPAIGN, THOUGH THERE IS CERTAINLY ROOM FOR SUCH CON-
JECTURE (REFTEL). IT IS INTERESTING, HOWEVER, THAT CDU
SUPPORTERS OF THE AGREEMENTS FEEL THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS
NOT MAKING AN ALL-OUT EFFORT TO INSURE THAT THE AGREE-
MENT IS APPROVED BY THE BUNDES RAT.
HILLEN BRAND
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, AGREEMENTS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, MEETING VOTING RECORDS, PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, NATIONAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BONN00991
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760021-0258, P760012-1350
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760139/aaaabiju.tel
Line Count: 185
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 BONN 858
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <13 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAARLAND AND THE POLISH AGREEMENTS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GE, PL, CDU
To: STATE EUR
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006